AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 5 and ending on line 32 with the following:

Transient transfections, luciferase assays and fluorescence microscopy. NIH 3T3 and RS485 cells were plated in 35 mm culture dishes. Cells were transfected overnight, in triplicate, with the indicated expression vectors by using Fugene 6 transfection reagent (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Indianapolis, Ind.) in Dulbecco's Modified Eagles Medium containing 0.5% FBS. The plasmids used are: pCMVneo-Myr-Akt kindly provided by Z. Luo (Boston University Medical School, Boston, Mass.), NF-κB-luciferase which was a gift from G. Rawadi (Hoechst-Marion-Roussel, Romainville, France), pEGFP-C1-PDK1 kindly provided by J. Chung (Korean Advanced Institute of science and Technology, Taejon, Republic of Korea), and pcDNA3.1 (+)/LOPP propeptide and pcDNA4-LO enzyme expression vectors. The expression vector for the lysyl oxidase pro-peptide pcDNA3.1 (+)/LOPP was generated from pSV40 PolyACOD (Trackman et al., 1992) by PCR, using forward primer: 5'- AC TGGATCCCGA AGAGGTCTCC CTCCTTCGCG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 9) and reverse primer 5'-TACGAAT TCTCAGCCCA CCATGCGATC TACGTGGCTG-3' (SEQ ID NO.: 10). The DNA was digested with BamHI and EcoRI and gel purified and cloned into pcDNA3.1 (+) (Invitrogen), resulting in pcDNA3.1 (+)/LOPP. This construct contains the rat cDNA sequence (-94 to +486) that includes a portion of the 5"-UTR, the signal peptide, the entire rat lysyl oxidase propeptide coding region and no mature lysyl oxidase sequence. The insert was directly confirmed by DNA sequencing. The expression vector for mature lysyl oxidase was accomplished by excision of nucleotides encoding amino acid residues 23 - 157 from a construct of murine

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lysyl oxidase cDNA -33 to +1234, and then cloned into pcDNA4 as previously reported (Seve et al., 2002).

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